

CURRENTLY PENDING CLAIMS

1            1.    (Original) Apparatus for use in a telephony system, comprising:  
2                    a digital interface for communicating with a stimulus device;  
3                    a packet interface for communicating with a packet-based network; and  
4                    a controller to receive stimulus control information from the digital interface and  
5                    to encapsulate the stimulus control information into one or more packets for transmission over  
6                    the packet-based network through the packet interface.

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1            2.    (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the controller encapsulates the  
2                    stimulus control information into an Internet Protocol packet.

1            3.    (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the digital interface includes a  
2                    UART interface.

1            4.    (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the digital interface includes a time  
2                    compression multiplex interface.

1            5.    (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the controller adds a destination  
2                    address of a telephone switch system into the one or more packets.

1            6.    (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the controller adds a destination  
2                    address of a stimulus telephone into the one or more packets.

1            7.    (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the stimulus control information is  
2                    according to a first stimulus language, and wherein the stimulus control information remains in  
3                    the first stimulus language after encapsulation.

1 8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the controller encapsulates the  
2 stimulus control information without translating the stimulus control information into a different  
3 form.

1 9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the controller encapsulates the  
2 stimulus control information by adding header information according to a network protocol.

1 10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the network protocol header  
2 information includes an Internet Protocol header.

1 11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the controller adds further header  
2 information according to a transport protocol.

1 12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the further header information  
2 includes a User Datagram Protocol header.

1 13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the controller also scrambles the  
2 stimulus message before encapsulation.

1 14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the controller encrypts the one or  
2 more packets.

1 15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a receiver to receive the  
2 one or more packets, the receiver including an element to decapsulate the one or more packets to  
3 extract the stimulus control information.

1 16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the receiver is associated with a  
2 second stimulus device, and wherein the extracted stimulus control information is in a native  
3 stimulus language of the second stimulus device.

1 17. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the stimulus control  
2 information includes at least one of hook state information, ~~display information~~, and key press  
3 event information.

1 18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the stimulus control information  
2 includes a command selected from the group consisting of a handset volume control command, a  
3 handset connect/disconnect command, an audio stream open/close command, and a ringer  
4 activation command.

1 19. (Cancelled)

20. (Original) A method for use in a telephony system, comprising:  
communicating stimulus control information with a stimulus device through a  
3 first interface and packet information with a packet-based network through a packet interface;  
4 encapsulating stimulus control information received from the first interface; and  
5 transmitting the encapsulated stimulus control information as at least one packet  
6 to the packet interface.

1 21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20, further comprising:  
2 decapsulating one or more packets received from the packet interface and  
3 containing stimulus control information; and  
4 transmitting the stimulus control information of the decapsulated one or more  
5 packets to the first interface.

1 22. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the stimulus control information is in  
2 a native stimulus language, and wherein encapsulating the stimulus control information includes  
3 inserting the stimulus control information in its native stimulus language into a payload of the at  
4 least one packet.

1 23. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein encapsulating the stimulus control  
2 information includes adding a network protocol header to the stimulus control information.

1 24. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein encapsulating the stimulus control  
2 information includes adding an Internet Protocol header.

1 25. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein encapsulating the stimulus control  
2 information further includes adding a User Datagram Protocol header.

1 26. (Original) The method of claim 20, further comprising scrambling the stimulus  
2 control information before encapsulating.

1 27. (Original) The method of claim 20, further comprising encrypting the at least one  
2 packet.

1 28. (Original) An article including one or more machine-readable storage media  
2 containing instructions for call control in a telephony system, the instructions when executed  
3 causing a device to:

4 receive data according to a stimulus protocol from a first interface;  
5 encapsulate the data into one or more packets; and  
6 communicate the one or more packets to a packet-based data network.

1 29. (Original) The article of claim 28, wherein the one or more storage media contain  
2 instructions that when executed causes the device to:

3 receive a packet containing data according to the stimulus protocol;  
4 decapsulate the packet; and  
5 communicate the data according to the stimulus protocol to the first interface.

1 30. (Original) A data signal embodied in a carrier wave and containing instructions  
2 for call control in a telephony system, the instructions when executed causing a device to:  
3 receive at least one packet containing a stimulus message according to a first  
4 language;  
5 decapsulate the at least one packet to extract the stimulus message according to  
6 the first language; and  
send the stimulus message according to the first language to a stimulus device.

1 31. The data signal of claim 30, further containing instructions that when executed  
2 causes a device to:  
3 receive a stimulus message according to the first language from the stimulus  
4 device; and  
5 encapsulate the stimulus message according to a first language into at least one  
6 packet.

1 32. (Cancelled)

1 33. (Cancelled)

1 34. (Original) An apparatus for use in a telephony system, comprising:  
2 means for receiving a stimulus message from a stimulus device;  
3 means for encapsulating the stimulus message into at least one packet; and  
4 means for transmitting the at least one packet to a packet-based network.

1 35. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising an interface card adapted to  
2 be inserted into a slot of the stimulus device, the interface card comprising the digital interface,  
3 the packet interface, and the controller.

1 36. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the digital interface is adapted to  
2 exchange the stimulus control information with the stimulus device.

1 37. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the stimulus control information  
2 contains a command according to a stimulus protocol selected from the group consisting of off-  
3 hook, on-hook, handset volume control, handset connect, and handset disconnect.

1 38. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a receiver to receive one or  
2 more inbound packets containing inbound stimulus control information, the controller to  
3 decapsulate the one or more inbound packets to extract the inbound stimulus control information.

1 39. (New) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein each of the one or more inbound  
2 packets contains a User Datagram Protocol (UDP) port number, the controller to determine from  
3 the UDP port number whether the corresponding inbound packet contains voice data or stimulus  
4 control information.

1           40. (New) The method of claim 20, further comprising providing an interface card to  
2 be inserted into a slot of the stimulus device, the interface card having the first interface and the  
3 packet interface,

4                   wherein encapsulating the stimulus control information and transmitting the  
5 encapsulated stimulus control information and transmitting the encapsulated stimulus control  
6 information is performed by the interface card.

1           41. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein encapsulating the stimulus control  
2 information comprises encapsulating a command according to a stimulus protocol selected from  
3 the group consisting of off-hook, on-hook, handset volume control, handset connect, and handset  
4 disconnect.

1           42. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein each of the received one or more packets  
2 contains a User Datagram Protocol (UDP) port number, the method further comprising  
3 determining from the UDP port number whether the corresponding received packet contains  
4 voice data or stimulus control information.

1           43. (New) The article of claim 28, wherein encapsulating the data according to the  
2 stimulus protocol comprises encapsulating one of an off-hook stimulus command, on-hook  
3 stimulus command, handset volume control stimulus command, handset connect stimulus  
4 command, and handset disconnect stimulus command.

1           44. (New) The data signal of claim 30, wherein receiving the at least one packet  
2 containing the stimulus message comprises receiving the at least one packet containing stimulus  
3 message containing at least a command selected from the group consisting of off-hook, on-hook,  
4 handset volume control, handset connect, and handset disconnect.

1 45. (New) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein, the stimulus message contains at least  
2 a command selected from the group consisting of off-hook, on-hook, handset volume control,  
3 handset connect, and handset disconnect.

1 46. (New) The apparatus of claim 34, further comprising:  
2 means for decapsulating the at least one packet received from the packet-based  
3 network and containing the stimulus message.

1 47. (New) The apparatus of claim 34, further comprising means for encrypting the at  
2 least one packet.

1 48. (New) The apparatus of claim 34, further comprising means for scrambling the  
2 stimulus message before encapsulating.

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